

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
initializing a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG);
obtaining local seeding information from a host;
securely obtaining additional seeding information from one or more remote
entropy servers using a secure entropy collection protocol, wherein the
secure entropy collection protocol to perform:
generating a key pair including a temporary asymmetric public key and a
temporary asymmetric private key,
encrypting the temporary public key with a public key associated with a
remote entropy server,
decrypting the temporary public key with a private key associated with the
remote entropy server,
encrypting the additional seeding information with the temporary public
key, and
decrypting the additional seeding information with the temporary private
key ~~the securely obtaining of the seeding information from the one~~
~~or more remote entropy servers is repeated for redundant entropy~~
~~servers;~~ and
stirring the PRNG with the local seeding information and the additional seeding
information.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the initializing of the
PRNG comprises initializing an internal state of the PRNG with a random value.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the random value
comprises a seed.

4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more remote entropy servers maintain random state pool to supply the host with the random value.
6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the securely obtaining of the seeding information from the one or more remote entropy servers includes using a privacy protocol.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the privacy protocol comprises secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the privacy protocol comprises transport layer security (TLS) protocol.
9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the stirring of the PRNG comprises producing a cryptographically random stream of bits.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An entropy enhancing system comprising:
a local system including a host and a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG),
the local system to
initialize the PRNG by obtaining local seeding information from the host,
securely obtain additional seeding information from one or more remote entropy
servers using a secure entropy collection protocol, the secure entropy
collection protocol to perform:
generating a key pair including a temporary asymmetric public key and a
temporary asymmetric private key.

encrypting the temporary public key with a public key associated with a
remote entropy server,
decrypting the temporary public key with a private key associated with the
remote entropy server,
encrypting the additional seeding information with the temporary public
key, and
decrypting the additional seeding information with the temporary private
key; and
stir the PRNG with the local seeding information and the additional
seeding information; ~~and the one or more remote systems~~
~~including the one or more entropy servers to securely provide the~~
~~additional seeding information to the local system, wherein the~~
~~securely providing of the additional seeding information to the~~
~~local system from the one or more entropy servers is repeated for~~
~~redundant entropy servers.~~

18. (Previously Amended) The entropy enhancing system of claim 17, wherein the local system generates the local seeding information at the host.
19. (Previously Amended) The entropy enhancing system of claim 17, wherein the one or more remote systems generates the remote seeding information at the one or more entropy servers.
20. (Previously Amended) The entropy enhancing system of claim 17, wherein the entropy servers comprise one or more of the following: hardware and software.

Claims 21-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
- initialize a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG);
 - obtain local seeding information from a host;
 - securely obtain additional seeding information from one or more remote entropy servers using a secure entropy collection protocol, wherein the secure entropy collection protocol to:
 - generate a key pair including a temporary asymmetric public key and a temporary asymmetric private key,
 - encrypt the temporary public key with a public key associated with a remote entropy server,
 - decrypt the temporary public key with a private key associated with the remote entropy server,
 - encrypt the additional seeding information with the temporary public key,
 - and
 - decrypt the additional seeding information with the temporary private key
 - ~~the securely obtaining of the seeding information from the one or more remote entropy servers is repeated for redundant entropy servers; and~~
 - stir the PRNG with the local seeding information and the additional seeding information.

26. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the initializing of the PRNG comprises initializing an internal state of the PRNG with a random value.
27. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the random value comprises a seed.
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the one or more remote entropy servers maintain random state pool to supply the host with the random value.
30. (Previously Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the stirring of the PRNG comprises producing a cryptographically random stream of bits.